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## **Astonishing Jew's harp player of the old times: Discovery of a new 18th century image**

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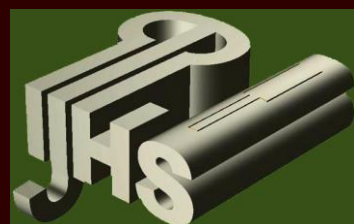
# Newsletter of the International Jew's Harp Society



**BoardMatters**  
**FeatureComment**

Thoughts on the IJHS  
The Karinding of West Java  
*Ilham Nurwansah*

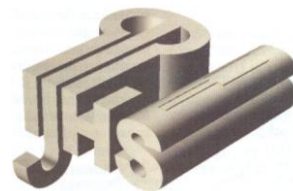
**RegionalNews**  
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*Correspondence*  
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**June 2011**  
**Summer**  
**Issue 12**



# June 2011 Summer Issue 12



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To contribute to the newsletter, send your emails to [jewsharper@btinternet.com](mailto:jewsharper@btinternet.com) or post to:

Michael Wright, General Secretary, IJHS Newsletter, 77 Beech Road, Wheatley, Oxon, OX33 1UD, UK

*Signed articles or news items represent the views of their authors only. .*

*Cover photograph of Whitby Folk week Workshop participants, courtesy of Michael Wright*



(above)  
Franz Kumpul

(below)  
Michael Wright,  
photograph by  
Debbie Wright



## Editorial

I realised recently that I've actually published ten newsletters since the Congress in Amsterdam and at last many of us will be meeting at the 7<sup>th</sup> Congress in Yakutsk, so I'll be able to thank everyone who has contributed over the years in person. For me the joy of the Newsletter had been to receive such a variety of articles, news items, images and comments. It shows what a dynamic and friendly community we are all part of and I've been delighted to have played my part in sharing your news and information with everyone.

After the next Congress, though, we may decide to share our ideas in another way. A newsletter by its very nature tends to follow the events it reports on, so access to the internet and the immediacy of contact through that medium might be a way of keeping in touch in the future. Whatever members and supporters decide, however, some form of news network will, I'm sure, be part of the Society. If you are not going to be there, I suggest you contact your local Board member with any views you might have.

This issue has the same diversity of articles from contributors as before. I was delighted to get an article from a new member, Ilham nurwansah, and some great photographs from Spiridon Shishigin and Aron Szilagyi, not to mention a mass of website links from Tran Quang Hai, plus various pieces of regional news and a few odds and ends for the And**Finally** section.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed. I expect the next issue to be a bumper edition!

*Michael Wright*

p.s. please note my new home email address is  
[jewsharper@btinternet.com](mailto:jewsharper@btinternet.com)

## BoardMatters

Dear friends,

There are several days left until the big event in Yakutsk, in my opinion the Mecca of the Jew's harp. I promise, it will be worth all the nerves and money spent on organizing your trip and getting there! I guess, you have read the 5 Bulletins in preparation for the festival.

Therefore, there is no need to repeat advice and information. This 7<sup>th</sup> Festival-Congress will be also of importance for the future of the International Jew's Harp Society for several reasons

- we need to draw lessons learned from the past 13 years of existence of the IJHS
- we need to agree on a strategy for the next decade in regard of structure, management, responsibilities and activities of the IJHS
- we need to agree on possible changes of the Statutes and of the legal status of the IJHS
- we need to confirm and/or elect new members of the board as well as the main functions including mine
- we need to agree on the next sites plus timing for the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Festival-Congress

Dear friends, for me a circle is closing in Yakutsk. 20 years ago I happened to be in Yakutsk during the 2<sup>nd</sup> IJHF, with a Maultrommel in my pocket. How astonished I was to learn that my little pocket-instrument is not only played in alpine Austria! I got known and became friends with the organizers Ivan Alexeyev and Spiridon Shishigin, and I decided to initiate and organize a similar event in Molln, Austria. This became the 3<sup>rd</sup> IJHF in 1998, where we established the IJHS. Since this time I have the honor to be President of this organization. I am sure, that one can do more than I did, ... but probably also less. I am willing to continue as president if really needed, but I like the idea of handing over the duty of President in the city where my administrative-organizational participation in the international jew's harp movement had started some 20 years ago.

Thank you all for your support and I am very much looking forward to meeting you all in Yakutsk!

*Franz*

## Astonishing **trump** [Jew's harp] player of the old times

Discovery of a new 18th century image



Left: Major Count Sedlnitzky playing bagpipe, by A. de Schell, 1784, gouache on vellum mounted on cardboard, 23 x 18.8 cm, Inv. Bi 2234. Courtesy Sammlungen der Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde in Wien.

Right: The two **trumps** seem to belong to a type which has existed; the frame is closed and surrounds entirely the tongue, more surprising are the two small colourful coq figures mounted on each ring finger.

One of the most crucial missions of the International Jew's harp Society is to share and disseminate knowledge about the **jew's harp**, and this could not be done without the close collaboration of its **members**. Please find here the latest example of such team work we would like to dedicate to Fred Crane.

Our member from Germany Uta Henning did inform me this last February that an unknown 18th century painting depicting a **trump** player had been on sale during the last Stuttgart Antiquarian Bookfair and that the image was published on page 96 in the general catalogue (Verband Deutscher Antiquare (ed.), 2010, *Wertvolle Bücher, Autographen, illustrierte Werke, Graphik. 50. Verkaufsausstellung 2011, Stuttgarter Antiquariatsmesse vom 28. Bis 30. Januar 2011*. Elbingen. Verband Deutscher Antiquare). The price was 1.200 €.

After contacting the seller, Antiquariat Patzer & Trenkle in Konstanz, I was told that the image was actually sold during the Bookfair. Nevertheless, Patzer & Trenkle had been very kind and contributed to put me into contact with the new owner, the Archiv, Bibliothek und Sammlungen der Gesellschaft der

Musikfreunde in Vienna. Its director, Prof. Dr. Biba, kindly allowed us to publish the painting in the IJHS Newsletter issued for the 7th International Festival and Congress in Yakutsk.

If the artist is still unknown, Patzer & Trenkle could identify that it is the portrait of Major Count Sedlnitzky („Sedlizky“) von Choltitz playing bagpipe, with, in his back, a Franciscan monk playing two **trumps**, one in each hand. On the verso of the painting the following poetic sentence is inscribed in French: “Ami, dis moi quelle Avanture peut avoir fait naître un tableau d'un goût si bizarre et nouveau?”.

Finding such a new image is quite rare. In this case we should first acknowledge Patzer & Trenkle who did identify and document the painting which then did not escape the sharp eye of Uta Henning. In fact, as this painting contains some rather enigmatic elements, we are awaiting your comments or remarks (please send them to me: [phidkat@bluewin.ch](mailto:phidkat@bluewin.ch)) as we intend to publish this image with some further analysis (all contributions will be mentioned).

Philippe Dallais